REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 24-29, 37-38 and 93-95 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-19, 21-23, 30-36 and 39-92 have been canceled, Claims 20, 24-29, 37 and 38 have been amended, and Claims 93-95 have been added by the present amendment.

This application is a Request for Continued Examination Application of parent application serial no. 09/035,995, filed on March 6, 1998. The amendments to the claims have been made to further distinguish from the applied art.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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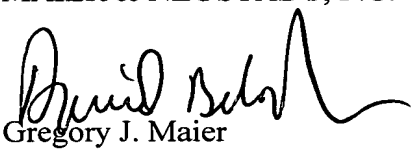

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IN THE CLAIMS

--20. (Amended) A data transfer control device for controlling transfer of [information] audio/visual data to a receiving node connected with a [first physical] local network from a transmitting node connected with a [second physical] global network, the data transfer control device being connected [with the first physical] between the local network and the global network and comprising:

an establishing unit [for establishing a channel] configured to establish a connection in the [first physical] local network;

a transfer unit [for transferring the information] configured to transfer the audio/visual data transferred through a communication path that is reserved for receiving the [information] audio/visual data transmitted from the transmitting node, to the [channel] connection established by the establishing unit; and

a commanding unit [for commanding] configured to command the receiving node to receive the [information] audio/visual data which is transferred through the [channel established by the establishing unit] connection by the transfer unit, by using a protocol depending on the [first physical] local network.

24. (Amended) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

a collecting unit [for collecting] configured to collect attribute information of [transmitting and/or receiving nodes connected with the first physical network] the receiving node; and

a notifying unit [for notifying said] configured to notify the attribute information to another data transfer control device belonging to the [second physical] global network and/or the transmitting node.

25. (Amended) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

a notice receiving unit [for receiving] configured to receive a notice regarding attribute information of the transmitting node [and/or receiving nodes connected with the second physical network]; and

a memory unit [for storing said] configured to store the attribute information.

26. (Amended) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

a message receiving unit [for receiving] configured to receive a control message containing an information capable of specifying the receiving node, from another data transfer control device belonging to the [second physical] global network and/or the transmitting node;

wherein the commanding unit commands a receiving of the [information] audio/visual data to the receiving node [which is] as specified by [said] the control message.

27. (Amended) The device of claim 20, further comprising:

a transmission unit [for transmitting] configured to transmit a control message containing an information capable of specifying the transmitting node, to another data transfer control device belonging to the [second physical] global network.

28. (Amended) A data transfer control device for controlling transfer of [information] audio/visual data from a transmitting node connected with a [first physical]

global network to a receiving node connected with a [second physical] local network, the data transfer control device being connected [with the second physical network and with a third physical network or the first physical] between the local network and the global network and comprising:

a first establishing unit [for establishing a channel] configured to establish a connection in the [second physical] local network;

a second establishing unit [for establishing] configured to establish a communication path between the data transfer control device and the [first physical] global network or a transmitting node belonging to an upper logical network of the [first physical] global network;

[a commanding unit for commanding the receiving node to receive the information data transferred through the channel established by the first establishing unit, by using a protocol depending on the second physical network;]

a conversion unit [for converting] configured to convert a data format of the [information] audio/visual data received through the communication path established by the second establishing unit, from a first data format depending on the [third physical network or the first physical] global network [and/or an upper logical network of the third physical network or the first physical network] to a second data format depending on the [second physical] local network; [and]

a transfer unit [for transferring] configured to transfer the [information] audio/visual data with the data format converted by the conversion unit, to the [channel] connection established by the first establishing unit; and

a commanding unit configured to command the receiving node to receive the audio/visual data transferred through the connection by the transfer unit, by using a protocol depending on the local network.

29. (Amended) A data transfer control device for controlling transfer of [information] audio/visual data from a transmitting node connected with a [first physical] global network to a receiving node connected with a [second physical] local network, the data transfer control device being connected [with the second physical] between the local network and the global network and comprising:

a first establishing unit [for establishing a channel] configured to establish a connection in the [second physical] local network;

a second establishing unit [for establishing] configured to establish a communication path between the data transfer control device and the [first physical] global network or a transmitting node belonging to an upper logical network of the [first physical] global network;

[a commanding unit for commanding the receiving node to receive the information data transferred through the channel established by the first establishing unit, by using a protocol depending on the second physical network;]

an encoding/decoding unit [for encoding/decoding] configured to encode/decode the [information] audio/visual data received through the communication path established by the second establishing unit; [and]

a transfer unit [for transferring] configured to transfer the [information] audio/visual data encoded/decoded by the encoding/decoding unit, to the [channel] connection established by the first establishing unit; and

a commanding unit configured to command the receiving node to receive the audio/visual data transferred through the connection by the transfer unit, by using a protocol depending on the local network.

37. (Amended) A relay device for transmitting a received data from [one] a global network to [another] a local network, comprising:

a receiving unit [for receiving] configured to receive a control message requesting an encoding/decoding of the received data in a data format depending on [said one] the local network; and

a transmission unit [for encoding/decoding] configured to encode/decode the received data from [said one] the global network according to the control message received by the receiving unit, and [transmitting] to transmit encoded/decoded data to [said another] the local network.

38. (Amended) A control device connected [with a first physical] between a local network and a global network, comprising:

a collecting unit [for collecting] configured to collect attribute information of transmitting and/or receiving nodes connected with the [first physical] local network, according to a protocol depending on the [first physical] local network; and

a notifying unit [for notifying said] configured to notify the attribute information to a device connected with [a second physical] the global network, according to a network layer protocol not depending on the [first physical] local network.--

93. (New).

94. (New).

95. (New).